

Appl. No. 10/676,058
Amdt. dated 10/14/2005
Reply to Office action of 09/16/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 102:

All claims (15-24) teach a CONTINUOUS body. Both Wentorf Jr. and Engelfriet teach bodies that are NOT continuous.

In Wentorf's structure there is a layer of cement between the various parts that make up the claimed structure. Thus, the application of a suitable solvent will, given sufficient time, enable this structure to be disassembled.

Engelfriet's structure is formed by press fitting. There is thus a film of air between the various parts that make up the claimed structure. Such a structure can be disassembled through the application of forces opposite to those used during assembly.

By contrast, the structures claimed by the present invention have no intermediate layers between their various parts and these structures cannot be disassembled, only destroyed.

Reconsideration is requested of all rejections based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting :

With respect to claims 15-24, rejected as being unpatentable over claims 11-26 of US 6,461,563:

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Both sets of claims teach continuous bodies made up of two parts that differ in one, and only one, functional property. Experience has, however, shown that the two functional properties that differ from one another may not always be fully compatible. By dint of a substantial amount of experimentation, we have identified which pairs of functional properties give the best results and have summarized these in the form of the present invention.

One skilled in the art, applying the teachings of the present invention to 6,461,563, will, in general, have a greater likelihood of immediate success than one limited to the practice of 6,461,563 alone. Prior to launching our investigation, it was by no means obvious which pairs of functional properties would turn out to be the best.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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